



The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
10 Downing Street
London
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17 January 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

Following on from my question in PMQ yesterday, I would like to extend an offer from myself and Reverend Danny Miller to formally invite you to Rotherham Foodbank.

We would like to give you the opportunity to see for yourself the fantastic work and projects of the Foodbank. More importantly we want you to see the people that are coming to the Foodbank. These are working people who have to make decisions between putting food on the table or paying their rent or mortgage. This is week on week, month on month and the problem is growing.

We want you to see that these are not only unemployed people but people who are working but do not have a safety net. This means that when something shifts in their finances, such as fuel increases, burst pipes, or a cut in working hours, it has a devastating impact.

In Rotherham, one in five children are going to school hungry. Going to school hungry means that children cannot concentrate in school. We have evidence of teachers and social workers having whip rounds and raiding their own cupboards to feed these children. Rotherham Food Bank exists to tackle child poverty. These are not children from dysfunctional families but working families.

Rotherham Foodbank is working collaboratively with local businesses, the local council, police and probation services to offer a line of support to the people of Rotherham. An example of this is the partnership working the Foodbank is doing with the probationary service. This is to tackle the increase in first time shoplifting by parents stealing nappies, wet-wipes and baby food. Instead of a custodial sentence, they are being given food vouchers and support to alternative means of rebuilding their lives.

These issues are not specific to Rotherham. Since the centre opening April 2012 the number of Foodbanks opening across the country has double, an average of two a week. We are not trying to make a political point here, we just want to show you real life.

Yours sincerely

SARAH CHAMPION MP & REV. DANNY MILLER

17.1.13

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